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For Immediate Release
PR-48-67**GEORGIA, MASSACHUSETTS JOIN TREE FARM SYSTEM**

Outstanding woodland management of privately owned land received official recognition in October as two more states--Georgia and Massachusetts--joined the American Tree Farm System. The addition of these two states brings to 23 the number officially cooperating in the national movement to assist owners in the profitable and perpetual production of wood for use.

Massachusetts' affiliation with the program brings the Tree Farm system into New England for the first time. Col. W. B. Greeley, formerly chief of the U.S. Forest Service and now Chairman of the Board of Trustees of American Forest Products Industries, national sponsors of the Tree Farm System, participated in the dedication ceremonies at Athol, Mass., Oct. 5.

The Bay State's first Tree Farm is a 620 acre tract owned by Robert H. Lawton that has been in his family since colonial times. The Lawtons became interested in farm forestry in 1932 when Richard Lawton, the son, purchased 50¢ worth of tree seed and started a YMCA sponsored tree growing project on the property. From that seed, young Lawton planted white pine, red pine, and spruce, and the family went on to make wide scale plantings that have since netted nearly \$55,000 from sales of wood products.

The Massachusetts Tree Farm program is sponsored jointly by the State Department of Conservation and the Forestry Department of the State University. In dedicating the first Bay State Tree Farm, Arthur T. Lyman, commissioner of the Department of Conservation, pointed out that the wood industry paid more than 48 million dollars in wages to 30,000 Massachusetts workers last year.

"Six out of every ten acres in the state are primarily suited for forest growth," Lyman continued.

Georgia, unlike Massachusetts, is not pioneering in its area. Georgia